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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/646,119	10/30/2000	Gunter Halmschlager	P19790	3782

7055 7590 01/29/2002

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EXAMINER

FORTUNA, JOSE A


ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1731	12

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

9/12

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/646,119	Applicant(s) Halmschlager et al.	
Examiner José A. Fortuna	Art Unit 1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 6, 2001
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 46-97 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 46-97 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) All b) Some* c) None of:
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 10
- 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 46-97 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b). This rejection is set forth in the prior Office action paper number 9.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on November 16, 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that Turner et al. do not teach the claimed invention, because they teach the use of a top ply which has fines more uniformly distributed throughout the thickness of the ply. This is not convincing because, Turner et al. teach in another embodiment the bonding of the plies by the side of higher fines content and teach the benefits of having plies bonded on the side of higher fines contents, see below.

“ If desired, however, formation of the base ply itself can be done with two forming wires so that the surface on the other side of the fourdrinier wire has at least a degree of dewatering done through it. This permits either a shorter fourdrinier wire to be used, with the concomitant advantage of less machine space

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required and, further, the papermaking machine can be operated at a faster speed while still achieving superior ply bonding with the top ply.

Thus, by dewatering through both surfaces of both the top and base plies, formation of the individual plies is accomplished faster and, equally important, the ply faces which come into ply bonding engagement are better prepared, by virtue of having more fines and less fillers at their surface, to remain permanently bonded together.”

Applicants also argue that the other cited references are not explained specifically and that they do not teach the bonding of the surfaces with higher fines content. While the references were not explained with great detail, it was explained however, why they read on the claims, i.e., all of them teach, shown in the figures, multi-ply papers which plies are bonded by the air side of the ply/plies. As explained in the previous action, it is a well known fact, applicants admits this also, that the air side of a web contains the most fines, due to less dewatering at this face, and therefore, the reference reads on the claims as claimed.

As for the independent claims, the limitations are clearly shown in the embodiments of the references, e.g., claims 47-74 and 76-97, just describe a gap former which are shown in the references as twin wires, i.e., belts around two rolls form a nip over a former elements. This is just a conventional twin wire device, which all the references specifically show.

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Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to José Fortuna, whose telephone number is (703)305-7498. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley S. Silverman, can be reached on (703)308-3837. The fax number for this group is (703)305-7115.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0661.

When filing a FAX in group 1730, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other

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communication with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.

José A. Fortuna
January 27, 2002


JOSE FORTUNA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1731